FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Over 700 Iraqi soldiers have been killed or wounded since the start of Iran's 11 March offensive and Iraq's 12 March counter-offensive, according to reports from the Khatam ol-Anbiya headquarters cited by IRNA. However, an Iraqi military spokesman, in an announcement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, asserted that the Iranian offensive had completely failed. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by the radio maintained that "very large numbers" of Iranian forces were killed. In a related development Tehran radio reported that Iraqi forces used chemical weapons against Iranian forces on 13 march.

Responding to 12 March Iraqi attacks on the cities of Bostan, Piranshah, Marivan, and Hamadan, an Iranian military communique reported by IRNA stated that Iran's heavy artillery will resume its attacks on "military and economic" installations in Basra. The communique reiterated Iran's support and compliance with the UN proposal to cease attacks at 2359 GMT on 11 March, but contended that Iraq failed to comply. Iraqi media has not reported the 12 March attacks on Iranian cities.

Lebanon

Phalangist Internal Crisis — Dismissed Phalangist official Samir Ja'ja' has proclaimed himself commander of an "uprising" within the Lebanese Forces and his supporters have wounded Forces commander Fu'ad Abu Nadir in an assassination attempt in al-Ashrafiyah, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio announced on 13 March. The reported assassination attempt came in spite of Abu Nadir's decision to restore the independent decisionmaking of the Lebanese Forces, a move which the radio viewed as an attempt to appease Ja'ja's supporters, who enjoy widespread support in the Lebanese Forces. The radio also said that clashes have begun between supporters and opponents of the rebels, who have seized the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The latter radio went off the air on the morning of 13 March after reporting favorably on the "uprising" and denying reports of clashes in East Beirut. It claimed that citizens viewed the action taken by Ja'ja' as "reassuring," and cited declarations of support for Ja'ja' from Phalangist and Christian circles. Meanwhile, Voice of Arab Lebanon linked President Amin al-Jumayyil's decision to cancel his visit to Moscow with the crisis in the Phalangist Party.

Israel and the South — Two IDF soldiers were killed and seven others were injured in further attacks on Israeli troops in the south, Jerusalem radio announced. Most of the casualties were caused by gunfire near the Al-Qasimiyah bridge but one soldier was injured by another car-bomb. The radio subsequently indicated that some Israeli Cabinet ministers are considering implementing the second and third phases of the withdrawal simultaneously, though "no changes on accelerating the withdrawal are to be expected at the moment." Senior IDF sources pointed out that the IDF would have no difficulty in combining the second and third stages of the withdrawal, the radio added.

Commenting on the U.S. veto of the UN Security Council's condemnation of Israel's "savage" actions in southern Lebanon, Beirut radio said this will encourage Israel to commit further "massacres."

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad began his third presidential term with a speech to the People's Assembly, broadcast by Damascus radio, in which he warned of the dangers of the "frightening move toward capitulation and the liquidation of the Palestine question under the cover of the so-called peace process." Contending that a just peace "is not achieved by begging, but by sacrificing," Al-Asad rejected the way the Palestine question is being handled by "the lowly ones," adding that the alternative to this is "militant" action as exemplified by the Lebanese National Resistance, whom Syria will continue to support until Lebanon is "completely liberated" from Israeli occupation. The president also reaffirmed his commitment to Arab unity, saying that every Arab country should "grow larger in order to include the Arab homeland" and that the goal of Arab unity should be "above Arab differences."

On internal matters, Al-Asad urged officials and the public to adopt a greater "sense of responsibility" to combat "violations," and he added that the news media should not remain silent over "errors." As for Syria's economic potential, the president disclosed that light crude oil was recently discovered for the first time, and that studies indicate the presence of "encouraging" quantities of natural gas in Syria.

Egypt

In a statement to U.S. President Ronald Reagan carried by MENA following their 12 March meeting, President Husni Mubarak said the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is a "major step" that should not be "discounted or discarded." Mubarak added that "we cannot afford another missed opportunity for peace."

Maghreb

A recent press conference given by Morocco's King Hassan II increased doubts and placed "obstacles" before a Maghreb "concerted action" to solve the Western Sahara conflict, according to an Algerian Foreign Ministry communique broadcast by Algiers radio.

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Karmal Leaves for Chernenko Funeral in Moscow
LD121401 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, 12 Mar (BAKHTAR) — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, left this afternoon for the Soviet Union to attend the funeral of K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Babrak Karmal was seen off at Kabul airport by Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the party Central Committee; vice chairmen of the Revolutionary Council and Presidium; members of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers; some members of the Supreme Court; some members of the NFF Executive Council and high council of ulema and clergy; members of the DRA Islamic Affairs Department; chairmen of the social organizations; and Fikryat Akhmedzhanovich Tabeyev, ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary of the USSR to the DRA.

BAKHTAR on Reagan Concern for Afghan Muslims
LD111008 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 11 Mar 85

["Reagan's Provocations" — BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, March 10, BAKHTAR — Ronald Reagan in his recent meeting in Washington with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia demanded from him that the Islamic world should become close with the West.

Reagan demanded this from King Fahd when they were talking about Afghanistan. Reagan's objective is to draw the Muslim nations of the Middle East to the undeclared war against Afghanistan which has been continuing for the past seven years.

Reagan has chosen this special moment for such a provocative demand because he needs more money for the arming and giving military training to the counter-revolutionary elements in addition to the 280 million dollars which the U.S. has already allocated for this ominous purpose.

THE WASHINGTON POST writes that Reagan wants to develop the undeclared war against Afghanistan to one of C.I.A. greatest activity after the Vietnam war. Therefore, Reagan is striving to turn the undeclared war to a joint action to be taken by the Islamic and Western countries against the DRA.

To achieve this end, the U.S. President has impudently alleged that the people in Afghanistan are barred from praying and observing their religious ceremonies.

Mr. Reagan who in collusion with Israeli Zionism has despised the first Muslim kiblas, and has martyred thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims impudently claims for the religious rights of Muslims. Reagan should remember that the revolutionary Afghanistan from the very beginning of the victory of April Revolution 1978, declared to the peoples of the world especially to the Muslims that the observance of religious rites and freedoms is strictly guaranteed here.

In the past two years alone, the DRA has spent 150 million afghanis (afs. 50 equals one US dollar) for the repair and construction of mosques. Various material and moral aids are given to the clergymen and religious scholars. The number of pilgrims who annually go to Ka'ba's pilgrimage are on the increase. The state of the DRA has spent so far 197 million afghanis on Mecca and Medina pilgrimages.

The fake and slanderous assertions made by Reagan are indicative of the fact that the United States is trying to hatch conspiracies through its lackeys for its imperialist interests in south west Asia.

The official sources of Pentagon have explicitly stated that the United States will continue the war in Afghanistan to the last Afghan. Reagan's demagogic concern over the freedom of faith and observance of religion in Afghanistan is only pretext for covering his crimes.

Karachi Reports Ziaul Haq's Arrival in Moscow

BK130324 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Mar 85

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has arrived in Moscow to attend the late President Chernenko's funeral. He was received at the airport by Strautmanis, the chairman of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic and deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The president drove to the state guest house from the airport and then went to the Hall of Columns to pay homage to late President Chernenko whose body lies in state there.

Gandhi Sends Message to Zia While Overflying

BK121533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] While overflying Pakistani territory on his way to Moscow, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi sent a message of good wishes to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. In his message, Rajiv Gandhi reiterated that his government desires promoting friendly relations between the two countries. He also expressed good wishes for Pakistan's progress and its people's prosperity.

2-day Mourning Declared for Chernenko's Death

BK121539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The government has decided to observe state mourning for 2 days from today for the late Soviet president, Konstantin Chernenko. The national flag will fly at half mast at all national buildings today and tomorrow.

Acting President, Martial Law Administrator Named

BK151537 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The chief justice of Pakistan, Justice Mohammad Halim, will be acting president during President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq's absence from the country. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Rahimuddin Khan, will be acting chief martial law administrator during this time.

DAWN Editorial on Constitutional Amendments

GF111330 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Mar 85 p 9

[Editorial: "The Amendments — What Discretion Forbids"]

[Excerpt] With elections to the national and provincial assemblies over, the country is very shortly going to enter the first phase of the transition to constitutional rule.

The interlude of Martial Law, originally intended to last about 90 days, has extended well beyond 90 months — a phenomenon which does not prove the community's democratic potential to be very rich. Now as the transition begins one wonders whether the political assets that we carry into the new era of challenge and hope are sufficient to enable us to lay the basis of a viable and enduring democratic system.

We are almost nearing the end of the process of creating a new Parliament, elections to which were fought on a non-party basis and for this reason alone, very little is known about the individual political proclivities and preferences of the members who have been elected. These members can claim to have no specific political mandate from their constituents.

The political parties, good, bad or indifferent as they may be, thrown up by our public life over many many years, remain in a state of suspended animation. The universities and other learned bodies are securely under bureaucratic control, and few academics and intellectuals have the time or the inclination to rack their brains over our lack of luck in building national institutions which we can be proud of or over the nation's political destiny. The setting in which the mass media and the press function is scarcely conducive to the spread of full information about the state of the nation and to the evolution of public opinion.

The assets are, thus, not too many. But we have not mentioned what could prove to be the most important asset — the Constitution of 1973, which was the product of a national consensus and which organised political opinion, to the extent it is ascertainable today, regards as the indispensable cornerstone of the nation's political edifice.

The president has now paved the way for the restoration of the 1973 Constitution, albeit with amendments made on his sole authority. How good an asset this amended document will prove to be in the course of the first leg of the journey on which we hope to embark on March 23 next? The question involves two issues — the President's competence to amend the Basic Law and the political merits or otherwise of the constitutional changes he has enacted. The 1973 Constitution derives its sanction and legitimacy from the approval of an overwhelming majority of an elected Parliament.

The president says his competence to amend is derived from the Supreme Court's famous judgment in the Nusrat Bhutto case. There are some eminent jurists who have gone on record as saying that the Provisional Constitution Order [PCO] has overriden the Nusrat Bhutto case judgment and that, therefore, if the President does have a sanction for altering the Constitution, it is perhaps derived from the PCO and not from the judgment.

Also, the opinion has been expressed that the judgement allowed scope only for changes necessitated by the exigencies of day-to-day working and in any case the permission given was conditional upon the holding of the promised election. It is difficult to see how this particular argument about competence can be clinched before the Judiciary has fully regained its position as the interpreter and guarantor of the Constitution.

However, our frame of reference here is that of political merits or demerits. There is no denying the fact that the changes introduced in the Basic Law are wide-ranging and of a fundamental nature, affecting as they do the essence of ministerial responsibility in a parliamentary set-up, the competence of the legislature to appoint and remove a government and the federal

character of the Constitution. The net effect of the amendments is a tremendous increase in the discretionary authority of the president, producing a high degree of concentration of power at the expense of the Cabinet system of government with the prime minister as its head, the Parliament and the competent units of the federation.

The issue, as the president posed it some time ago, was that of bringing about a balance between the powers of the president and those of the prime minister. The last chief executive had shown a strong tendency towards what might be called prime ministerial despotism — something which this newspaper, in line with the thinking of a large segment of opinion, disapproved. This despotism and the resulting political crisis, it is argued, were made possible by the fact that the Constitution was too niggardly in giving effective power to the president.

The issue of whether or not this was so ought to have been referred to the new Parliament which could have carried out amendments if it found that the equation between the head of state and the head of government really needed a correction. Actually, what perhaps needed correction was not so much the position of the president in relation to the prime minister as the position of Parliament in relation to the prime minister, who could, as the last one did, seek to reduce Parliament to the position of a rubber-stamp.

Editorial on Balance of Power, Future of Country

GF081414 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 6 Mar 85 p 3

[Editorial: "The Challenge of Translating Election Results Into a Practical Form"]

[Excerpts] In an exclusive interview with the editor, members of the National Press Trust on "the revival of the 1973 Constitution and the amendments under the Presidential Order of 1985," President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has called hasty and unrealistic the opinion that these amendments have tilted the balance of power in favor of the president. He feels that this is because those who heard his 2 March speech did not study the amendments, and those who did had not heard his speech. With due regard to the president's opinion, we consider it a fact that the balance of power has tilted in favor of the president. If we consider the opinion of the majority as the truth then it would be unrealistic and unjust to deny it.

The president's opinion and appeal may be justified on its own, but after a study of the amendments and hearing the speech, the general consensus remains: instead of balancing the powers of the president and the prime minister, there is a tilt toward the powers of the president. It is different that it was considered necessary by the president. It could also be attributed to the fact that it was a matter of natural preference because he had been ruling alone for the past 8 years. In light of this background he has stated that with the amendments in the 1973 Constitution he is at least giving something and not taking anything away. One who enjoys all powers finds it difficult to decide what to give and to what extent he should allow others to participate; but in this context it should be remembered that whatever is happening is taking place under the name of a transfer of power. As far as the matter of balance of authority in favor of the president is concerned, the opinions and statements were expressed 2 days after the announcement of the constitutional amendments. A large number of newly elected representatives, as well as politicians, constitutional experts, scholars, jurists, editorial writers, and commentators believe that the balance of power has tilted in the president's favor.

The above discussion apart, the basic issue is to save the country and the nation and to establish and follow a system geared to this purpose. The crises of 1971 and 1977 referred to by the president should not be repeated. This concern is not limited to the people of Pakistan, but includes the neighboring countries India and the usurper of Afghanistan — the Soviet Union who are also closely watching how we resolve our problems and what turn events will take in the next few months.

The president has said that martial law will gradually be lifted according to the amendments in the 1973 Constitution; in any case, the whole nation is watching expectantly to see how our country enters the new Islamic era. This is a difficult and taxing trial. Not only our countrymen but also our friends and wellwishers, as well as our opponents and enemies, will see how we emerge from such a test, which began with the giving of a practical form to the 1985 elections. We can all pray that the elected president and the assemblies will be successful and better days will dawn for the country.

Commentary Discusses Post-Election Politicking

GF121430 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 10 Mar 85 P 3

[Editorial: "More Difficult Situation After the Elections"]

[Excerpt] Groups and cliques are springing up, alliances are being forged or broken and assembly members are claiming "majority groups" in the National Assembly. In such conditions it is natural that difficulties and problems should arise that were mentioned at recent meetings in Quetta and Lahore. The basic reason for this state of affairs is that the elections were partyless. Hence the elected persons' success is individual because it was the outcome of their personal efforts and not due to any planning or organization on the part of a party. Therefore the vacuum created by the partyless polls is being filled by these groups and cliques.

This situation has been aggravated by the fact that the political process had been halted for some time and some prominent political personages who did emerge on the political scene did not participate in the elections due to the boycott or for other reasons. As a result, those people who are vying for the posts of prime minister or other ministerial portfolios do not seem to possess the same political stature. There is no doubt that very soon some "fortunate" people will fill these posts but meanwhile the president and his gubernatorial associates will face some problems that are not difficult to assess.

In a democratic system political parties are like nurseries, when they are not nurtured for years, then their blossoming and growth in stature is stunted and only wild sprouting weeds can be seen. The time that has passed, or in more exact words, that has been wasted cannot return but it will continue to have an effect. The

only solution is that at this sensitive time the rulers and elected representatives should act with sagacity and foresight and should not impose their own will or be avaricious of positions. They should display the will to serve their country and compromise cordially among themselves, just as they had promised in their manifestos and election banners, or in their meetings with the people.

HAIDAR Calls for End to Party Restrictions

GF121202 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 6 Mar 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Please Restore Political Activity Now"]

[Text] The national and provincial assembly elections are over now and even the Constitution has been amended. According to General Mohammad Ziaul Haq the Constitution has also been restored. If these activities were aimed at restitution of democracy then the situation demands that the political parties be revived, all restrictions on their activities be removed, the judiciary powers be restored, and the press should be given freedom.

All the restrictions imposed in the past were aimed at creating conditions for the martial law government so that the political elements, such as the papers or judiciary, would not be obstacles in its path. Now the government claims to be moving gradually toward democracy and it desires an end to martial law and the restitution of the Constitution. Elections have also been held for this purpose, the first step toward this goal. There is no reason to continue these restrictions. Therefore, we make a request to General Mohammad Ziaul Haq: There should be a practical display of progress toward democracy which can only be possible when political activities are permitted and the press and judiciary are free. Whatever martial law ordinances have been promulgated have been in the form of martial law or presidential orders, which have been legitimized to restore the Constitution.

In such circumstances there is no excuse for the continuation of restrictions on political parties. We hope that, in the historic 23 March session, President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq will announce the restoration of the country's basic rights.

NAWA-E WAQT Comments on Need for Nuclear Energy

GF101135 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 5 Mar 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Wheat and Nuclear Energy"]

[Excerpt] It is a well-known fact that wheat is an essential item in the world today. However, if we have to live in the world with dignity, which we would like to do, and if we are to carve a niche for ourselves in the ranks of the free countries of the world then we should not content ourselves with being self-sufficient in wheat production. We need modern arms, fighters, bombers and such weaponry and aircraft with which we can defend our country's independence, because according to the "poet of the East" [Pakistani poet Iqbal], if you want to live, live in danger.

The ordnance requirements that we have mentioned require technology that the Muslim countries do not currently possess because we are in the category of newly liberated countries. Unfortunately we do not even possess the natural resources that are plentiful in other Muslim countries. In light of this, we see the real problem as one of energy. Whatever we earn by way of foreign exchange is spent on oil imports.

The only solution is for us to progress in the field of nuclear energy, but our so-called friends and allies are not in favor of our obtaining nuclear energy and technology. Among our "mentors" are our Western friends and Eastern critics who state that if we acquire nuclear technology then we will not use it for works and factories but will manufacture the "Islamic bomb" instead. That should only be the monopoly of the capitalists, the Communists, Jews and Hindus. The Muslims should not even get wind of it.

As Pakistanis we are not ready to compromise with this mentality of capitalists and Communists, in fact we should not even contemplate such a thing. Instead we should continue efforts to progress in the field of nuclear energy.

If we continue this quest with sincere intentions and honesty then success will definitely be ours. The world will see that we are self-sufficient in wheat as well as nuclear energy, and may that day dawn soon. Amen!

BANGLADESH

AFP: Ershad Launches 'Crackdown' on Opposition

HK130814 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT 13 Mar 85

[By Roushan Zaman]

[Text] Dhaka, March 13 (AFP) — President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has launched a crackdown on oppositionists ahead of a March 21 referendum on his military rule, sources here said. President Ershad told a public meeting in the south-eastern port city of Chittagong yesterday that the forthcoming referendum would pave the way for general elections to establish a stable democratic system. On March 1 he gave three weeks' notice of the vote of confidence he seeks for his three-year old military regime until national polls are held under the country's suspended constitution.

General elections had been planned for April 6, but President Ershad postponed them for the third consecutive time on March 1 when oppositionists said they would boycott the polls unless he fully withdrew martial law. Observers now doubted whether the polls would go ahead after the planned referendum.

President Ershad yesterday detailed his efforts for restoring democracy and blamed the opposition for delaying the transition process. All political activities have been banned under tightened martial law regulations reimposed on March 1. Political leaders have been barred from speaking out against the referendum plan while most of them have gone into hiding to avoid any preemptive swoop by the military regime. Political parties have been warned against distribution of any leaflets criticising President Ershad's plan.

Sources said an unspecified number of political leaders, workers and trade unionists were among those rounded up for violating a nightly five-hour curfew imposed on the major cities.

Strict press censorship has been imposed and the government yesterday warned newspapers not to publish criticism of the scheduled referendum.

President Ershad has indicated that he was ready to hold the national polls shortly after the referendum if the country's political parties concurred. No opposition reactions were available to the referendum plan. The military ruler said the referendum would give the people a chance to express a verdict for peace, discipline and stability, which President Ershad said were essential for national development and progress.

The government has been gearing up for March 21 by setting up referendum committees countrywide, whose purpose is explained as "to help the voters cast their votes." Officials have arranged distribution of leaflets and posters to win public support for the referendum.

There will be two ballot boxes, one for the "yes" votes and one for "no" votes in each of the 90,000 polling booths to be set up for Bangladesh's 45 million registered voters, the Election Commission has said.

INDIA

Gandhi Meets With Nicaragua's Ortega in Moscow

BK131000 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Excerpts] In Moscow, the funeral of the Soviet president, Mr Chernenko, takes place this afternoon.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today laid wreaths on the body of late Soviet president, Mr Chernenko, lying in state at the Hall of Columns. He was accompanied by the defense minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the minister of state for steel, Mr Natwar Singh.

The prime minister today met the Nicaraguan president, Mr Daniel Ortega, at the Indian Embassy in Moscow. The Nicaraguan leader is reported to have apprised Mr Rajiv Gandhi of the situation in his country and existing relations between the United States and Nicaragua.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi is scheduled to meet the U.S. vice president, Mr George Bush, and also the Pakistan president, General Ziaul Haq, later today.

Nonalignment, Disarmament Seminar Held in Delhi

BK121607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] A seminar on nonalignment and nuclear disarmament has urged all concerned to do everything possible to put a halt to the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons. In a resolution adopted after the day-long discussions, the seminar urged the people, parliaments, and governments of all countries to extend a forceful support to the struggle for the survival of mankind.

Inaugurating the seminar in New Delhi this morning, the information and broadcasting minister, Mr V.N. Gadgil, said the whole world has a stake in disarmament. Extensive dialogues are necessary for achieving the objectives of disarmament, he said.

The foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, in his keynote address, pointed out that those who possessed nuclear weapons continue to refine and increase their nuclear arsenal dispite our desire to rid the world of the menace of nuclear weapons.

'Deep Dismay' Voiced Over Sri Lankan Statement

BK131058 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] India has expressed deep dismay at the Sri Lankan Government statement before the Human Rights Commission accusing New Delhi of exaggerating the figures of Tamil refugees. India also took an exception to the comparison made by Sri Lanka of the situation in Punjab with that in the northern parts of the island.

The leader of the Indian delegation to the commission, Dr G.S. Dhillon, yesterday expressed deep anguish at the refutation of India's contention that more than 50,000 Sri Lankan Tamils have fled to India since July 1983 in the wake of ethnic problem. Dr Dhillon reaffirmed that India is opposed to separatism, secession, and also acts of violence.

Punjab Governor Named; Committee To Visit State
BK121611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr Arjun Singh, is to be the new governor of Punjab. He will take over in a day or 2 from Mr K.P. Satarawala.

Announcing the appointment of Mr Arjun Singh, the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, told a news conference in New Delhi this evening that the 3-man cabinet subcommittee on Punjab will visit the state shortly to get a first-hand assessment of the situation.

The committee comprises the defense minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the education minister, Mr K.C. Pant, besides the home minister himself. Mr Chavan said everyone who desires to meet the committee will be given an opportunity to discuss various matters with it. The program of its visit is being worked out and people will be given advance information about the various areas it is touring.

The appointment of Mr Arjun Singh comes in the wake of the release of eight prominent Akali leaders last evening. The home minister also indicated that some more detenus [detainees] may be released. He said the cases of those not involved in violence or criminal activities can be reviewed. Cases of students belonging to the All India Sikh Students Federation can also be similarly reviewed.

Mr Arjun Singh had a meeting with the prime minister today before Mr Rajiv Gandhi left for Moscow. Asked to comment on his new assignment, Mr Arjun Singh said he felt privileged at the task reposed in him by the prime minister and he would do his best to discharge his duty to the nation.

SRI LANKA

Leaders Send Condolences on Chernenko Death
BK121126 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] President Jayewardene has sent a message of condolence to the Soviet Union on the death of President Chernenko. Mr Jayewardene states in his message that the death of the Soviet leader comes at a time when renewed efforts are being made to resume the dialogue on arms limitation and promote detente. Though his tenure in office was brief, Mr Chernenko directed his energies toward creating an atmosphere conducive to detente and peace. Mr Jayewardene also states that in his domestic policy, the late Soviet leader spared no effort to maintain the steady growth of the Soviet economy, placing great importance on the production of food. The president has expressed the hope that the Soviet Union would continue to foster and develop his enlightened policies.

Prime Minister Premadasa has also sent a message of condolence to the Soviet Union, in which he offers his sincere sympathies to the bereaved family of the late Soviet president.

Continuing Conflicts Reported in Iran-Iraq War

Kazempur-Ardabili on Attacks

LD121637 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — Iraqi attacks against a number of Iranian cities today have proven Iran's predictions that the United Nations could not convince the Iraqi regime to halt attacks on civilian areas, a high-ranking Iranian official said Tuesday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili told IRNA the Islamic Republic had no reason at hand which could confirm the ability of international organisations to convince Iraq to abide by international laws.

He said while Iran had stopped attacks on Iraqi cities after 23:59 GMT last night upon the request of the U.N. secretary general, Iraq had attacked Iranian cities of Bostan, a village near Hamadan, as well as Marivan and Piranshah today. The attacks had caused 16 casualties in the southern town of Bostan, and a number of other casualties and damages in Piranshah and Marivan, in northwest Iran. Damages were also caused in the village near Hamadan, he said.

"It is obvious that considering the continued aggressions of the Iraqi regime on residential areas, we also reserve the right to retaliate with full force and at an appropriate time," Ardabili said. We also declare to the international organisations our future actions would only be in retaliation, despite our inner desire."

Iran To Continue Retaliation

LD121728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Following today's bombing of Bostan and Hamadan and the shelling of Marivan and Piranshah by the Iraqi regime, the war publicity headquarters in a statement announced: With its attacks today the Iraqi regime has in practice proved that it attaches no value to international efforts to prevent attacks on residential areas and that international organizations have no power to stop the aggressions of that regime.

In this statement it was emphasized: The Islamic Republic of Iran will certainly not leave today's attacks by the Iraqi regime unanswered, and as it has already shown Iran will continue its retaliatory actions with full force.

It should be noted that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in response to the UN secretary general's request, have not attacked Iraqi residential areas since 0330 this morning.

Communique on Iraqi Offensive

LD121725 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — More than 500 Iraqi troops have been killed or wounded since the start of an offensive by the Islamic forces in southern Iraq last night, the Islamic Revolution's Guards and the Army said in their second joint communique.

More than 107 enemy troops were also taken captive, it said. IRNA correspondents in the battle zone said five senior Iraqi officers are among the captives. They were taken prisoner after the fall of the Al Bassah enemy headquarters.

The operation began at 11:20 Monday night (19:50 GMT), east of the Tigris River inside Iraq. The number of tanks destroyed has risen to 20 and a second enemy helicopter was downed in the region.

The Army Joint Staff Communique meanwhile reported in its latest communique that Iranian Air Force jets repelled enemy planes from the air space of Saqqez, Bakhtaran, Dow Rud and Arak at 2:30 this morning (23:00 GMT Monday).

On Monday, Iranian forces shelled the Iraqi border cities of Basra, Khanaqin, Halabjah, Sayyid Sadeq, Khurmal, and Shanadari, inflicting losses and damages, it said. The Iraqi forces sustained the greatest blows in the northern front of Sardasht and the movement of its vehicle columns were controlled by the Islamic forces in the Chuman-Mostafa area on Monday.

A number of enemy patrol boats were sited and repelled from the Jofeyr area of the southern front. In central and northern fronts, the Islamic forces had enemy armoured columns and engineering activities under control.

In the Halaleh front of Ilam Province, an Iraqi patrol unit was forced to retreat from the region in the evening on Sunday.

Casualty Toll Reported

LD121955 Tehran IRNA in English 1930 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — Iraqi jets bombed, rocket attacked, and shelled Iranian cities today despite the call by the U.N. secretary general to stop the attacks on residential areas after 23:59 GMT Monday night.

The Joint Staff Command also called on Tehran residents to turn off their lights as of 8:00 pm, for possible Iraqi air raids during the night.

In Bostan, Khuzestan Province, four Iraqi warplanes bombed the city at 9:10 am (05:40 GMT) during which 16 civilians were martyred or injured. Some residential units were damaged.

In Sanandaj, Kordestan Province, a number of Iraqi planes violated the air space of the city between 3:45 and 4:45 pm (12:15 and 13:15 GMT) today but were forced to flee by anti-aircraft fire. Iraqi planes also appeared over the skies of Marivan, Kordestan Province at 2 am Tuesday (22:30 GMT Monday) but were forced to flee before performing any operations. Long-range Iraqi artillery guns began shelling Marivan, and Piranshah in West Azarbayjan Province, at noon (08:30 GMT). In Marivan, 13 artillery shells hit residential areas, damaging some buildings. Precise casualty reports have not been available from Marivan.

In Hamadan, Hamadan Province, three rockets were fired at the Qasemabad village near the city at 3:45 pm (12:15 GMT). One of the rockets did not explode and the two others did not cause any casualties.

The casualty toll of Monday's missile attack on Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Province, rose to 110 martyrs and more than 1,000 injured, 660 of whom were hospitalised.

Iraqi POW's on Baghdad Damage

LD122239 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] An Iraqi POW from Baghdad has reported that Baghdad's military barracks and part of Baghdad's military airfield became the target of bombing during the bold operations carried out by the fast-flying pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Great damage was inflicted on them.

Introducing himself as Hamid Mahdi Musa from the 1st Battalion of Iraq's 92d Infantry Brigade, who was captured during last night's victorious operations by Islam's combatants east of the Tigris River, said in an interview given to an IRNA correspondent: I heard this from the soldiers from my city who returned from leave yesterday, but Iraq's mass media did not report it.

Sgt Third Class Mak'ab Jabbar Nasir, another Iraqi POW from the 1st Battalion of the Iraqi 92d Infantry Brigade, said with regard to the manner in which he was captured during last night's operations by Islam's combatants: Despite the fact that we were on full alert, the operations by the Islamic Army were so unexpected that while lurking in ambush I was captured by the Iranian forces.

The POW, from the Iraqi city of Al-Diwaniyah, said: Our commanders, declaring an alert, said if you take one step back you will be killed. However, a great many of the commanders disappeared the moment operations began by Islam's army, and many of the lower ranks in our battalion were killed, wounded, or captured.

An Iraqi conscript, named Hasan Jumayyil, from the 1st Battalion of the Iraqi 94th Infantry Brigade, said: During last night's operations by the Iranian forces, which began very rapidly, many of our forces were either killed or wounded despite our alert. A citizen of Basra, he said: Iranian artillery and armaments during the past few days inflicted heavy damage on Basra's economic, military, and municipal installations so much so that the harbor's activities have been paralyzed.

Reserve soldier 'Ali Aziz 'Abd al-Zahra from the 3d Company of the 1st Battalion of the Iraqi 93d Brigade, also described the morale of Iraqi troops as being extremely shaky. He said: After the beginning of operations by Islam's combatants we were all terrified and for that reason did not find the strength to come face to face with the troops of the Islamic Republic who were acting very rapidly indeed. Many of our troops were killed during the very first hours of the battle.

Baghdad Targeted Again

LD122259 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran regards Iraq's failure to respond to the request of the UN secretary general as a sign of the regime's desire to continue its crimes. According to an IRNA report, a spokesman of the war publicity headquarters said while announcing this: The decision of the Iraqi regime to make its response to the UN secretary general's proposal about halting attacks on residential areas conditional upon direct discussions with Javier Perez de Cuellar is only an excuse for not making any commitments to the secetary general. He added: If the Iraqi regime wishes to continue its crimes, Iran will retaliate in full force as it has proved in the past, and will not refrain from any action in retaliation.

The spokesman of the war publicity headquarters also said: The position of the Iraqi regime shows that in the same way that Iraq violated the 12 June 1984 agreement, it also wishes to continue its many crimes. Referring to the fact that in order to prove its goodwill and in order to show its humanitarian concern Iran again accepted the proposal of the UN secretary general. He added: What can be gathered from the political activities of the Iraqi regime is the fact that the regime is looking for excuses to not give any guarantees to the secretary general to refrain from attacking residential areas. Otherwise, the regime of Saddam could have officially declared its agreement with the proposal of the secretary general and there was no need to make the response conditional upon direct discussions with the secretary general. Such a stance is clearly an excuse for not making any commitments.

He emphasized: In any case, Iran is ready to retaliate against the savage acts of the Iraqi regime. Yesterday two places in Baghdad, the capital of Saddam's government, were the targets of bombing by the fighter-bombers of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the coming days we will be able to deliver more powerful blows against the Iraqi regime.

160 Iraqis Captured

GF130505 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] In continuation of the operations of the warriors of Islam in the southern fronts of the country which began Monday night under the code name "Ya Fatemat ol-Zahra", heavy casualties have been inflicted on the enemy forces according to the latest reports coming from the fronts.

According to a report by the correspondent of the Central News Unit of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the front lines of the battle, the 1st and 2d companies of the 3d battalion of the 429th brigade of the Iraqi Army were destroyed in the last hours of yesterday. The number of tanks of the Zionist enemy destroyed by the fire of warriors of Islam during the battles reached 30 yesterday.

According to our reports, the number of Iraqi officers and soldiers taken prisoner during the latest operations has exceeded

160. The Iraqi prisoners have reported that the morale of the Iraqi Army is very bad. According to reports coming from Khatam ol-Anbiya headquarters, the center for the joint operations of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the army of monotheism, in their victorious operations on Monday night, which started under the holy code name of "Ya Fatemat ol-Zahra" east of the Tigris River on Iraqi soil, and in order to answer the beastly attacks of the regime of Iraq against the civilian regions of Iran and also in order to destroy enemy forces, over 500 Iraqi forces have been wounded or annihilated.

The report adds that a second Iraqi Army helicopter was also shot down.

The Armed Forces Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran also announced that in retaliation for missile attacks and bombings of our civilian regions, including cities, by the Iraqi forces, military and industrial installations of the cities of Basra, Khanaqin, Halabjah, Sayyid Sadiq, Khurmal, and Shanadari came under heavy fire of the weapons of the warriors of Islam on 11 March, inflicting damage on the Zionist Iraqi regime.

According to an IRNA report, the first group of Iraqi prisoners were taken to Ahvaz yesterday afternoon.

Communique No 2,039

LD130551 Tehran IRNA in English 0550 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 13 IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran Wednesday warned residents of the Iraqi port city of Basra who have not left the city yet, to evacuate there since Iran is going to resume its artillery fire on military and economic installations of the city.

Announcing this on Wednesday morning, the Joint Staff Communique No. 2039 stressed that Iran's heavy artillery will resume its fire on "military and economic installations" in Basra and will forcefully hit vital resources in the city

It noted that resumption of Iran's artillery fire on Basra was in retaliation for Tuesday Iraqi bombing of the cities of Bostan, Bukan, and a village in Hamadan.

The communique added that the Iraqi regime, which has so far violated all humanitrarian, moral, and international principles, on Tuesday, despite a U.N. proposal for halting attacks against residential areas, air raided and opened artillery fire on a number of Iranian cities.

Although most of the Iraqi air raids were repelled by Iran's fighter planes or by the fire of its anti-aircraft units, the cities of Bostan and Bukan, and a village in Hamadan were bombed, the communique said.

Addressing residents of Basra, the communique stressed that however, Iran respected the U.N. proposal and stopped hitting Iraqi cities before GMT midnight on Tuesday but the Baghdad regime failed to do so.

Iraq To Use Chemical Weapons

LD120917 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — An informed military source told IRNA Tuesday that according to reliable information, the Iraqi regime once again intends to deploy chemical weapons. But, he added, because of geographical condition of the region Iraqi units too are likely to be afflicted and injured by the poisonous gas.

The source said that in the previous Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons in Talaiyeh region, a number of troops forces were afflicted by chemical gas, all of whom, according to Iraqi POW's, were buried in a mass grave in order to conceal the news and also prevent pollution of the environment. The military source urged international societies to exert pressure on the Baghdad regime to refrain from deploying chemical weapons. It should be noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran has given a positive response to the request of the U.N. secretary general for halting the deployment of chemical weapons, but the Iraqi regime has so far failed to do so.

Chemical Weapons Used 13 March

LD131058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] According to the report of our correspondent from Khatam al-Anbiya base, today the Iraqi regime in the operational sector on two occasions made use of chemical weapons against the fighters of Islam.

Jets Attack Bakhtaran, Esfahan

LD131034 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Iraqi jets Wednesday attacked the Iranian city of Bakhtaran in Bakhtaran Pr. and the central city of Esfahan in Esfahan Pr. about 400 km. west of the Iran-Iraq border about 1315 local time (0945 GMT). Early unconfirmed reports indicate that the two cities were hit with air-to-ground rockets.

Communique on Tigris Battle

LD131137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1037 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Khatam ol-Anbiya headquarters, the joint operational center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a few minutes ago issued an important communique as follows:

As a continuation of the operations undertaken by the heroes of the Islamic Corps, under the sacred codename "Ya Fatemat ol-Zahra" — may peace be upon her!, as retaliation to the attacks launched by the Iraqi regime against our population centers, and in the quest to destroy the enemy force in the area east of the Tigris River, more than 700 Iraqi troops have so far been either killed or wounded and 207 duped enemy soldiers have been captured by the victorious combatants of the Islamic Army.

Among enemy POW's can be seen a number of senior officers of the defeated Iraqi Army, including Captain Taha Mujbir Kazim, the company commander of the 429th Brigade Headquarters, and Lieutenant Salman Mafkhar Samad, one of the commanders of the artillery battalion. Thanks to the efforts of the combatants of the Islamic Corps this morning yet another enemy helicopter was shot down in the operational zone. As a result, three enemy helicopters have been shot down since the beginning of the operations to date.

So far the 1st and 2nd battalions and the 1st and 2d companies of the 3d battalion of the 429th Brigade of the Iraqi Army have been totally destroyed and demolished by Islam's combatants.

Thanks to crushing fire from Islam's combatants, an extensive part of the ammunition and equipment of the enemy has been set ablaze and destroyed and more than 35 enemy tanks have been destroyed so far.

The God-seeking troops of the Islamic Army on this auspicious birthday of the Holy ol-Zahra — may God's peace be upon her — beg the entire Islamic nation to favor them with their prayers!

[Signed] The Khatam ol-Anbiya headquarters, the joint operational center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iraqi Counteroffensive 'Crushed'

LD131102 Tehran IRNA in English 1056 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] East Tigris Region, March 13, IRNA — Iranian forces crushed the counter-offensives of the remnants of the Iraqi troops in the fronts in east of the Tigris River Tuesday and Wednesday morning. The Khatam ol-Anbiya joint headquarters of the Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps announced Wednesday.

During these operations, over 700 Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded, 35 Iraqi tanks and tens of other military vehicles were destroyed, while three helicopters carrying Iraqi troops were downed by the fire of Iranian forces.

Ali Mohammadi, a 23-year-old member of Basij (people's mobilisation forces) said that Iranian combatants also seized a great cache of munition from the Iraqi enemy which were being used against Iranian troops at present.

Meanwhile, aerial battle continued over the operation's theater all day Tuesday, but Iranian anti-aircraft batteries repelled the Iraqi planes. Iranian forces at present have established new defence lines whereby they have full control over the command centers of the defeated Iraqi troops in the east of the Tigris River.

A report from the battlefields said that dead bodies of the Iraqi commanders are seen in their bunkers while Iraqi prisoners of war are still being sorted out. So far Wednesday morning, 207 Iraqi POW's, among whom there are a number of officers, have been registered and the first group of them have been transferred inside Iran.

The Iraqi forces which sustained heavy blows in the offensive which started Monday night, are at present suffering from mismanagement and lack of discipline to the extent that Iraqi commanders are faced with difficulties in having control over soldiers who defect.

Iranian combatants have started clearing the scene of the battlefield from mines and explosive materials.

Iraqi Forces Checked in Bakhtaran

LD131118 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Pr., March 13, IRNA — The Islamic forces while maintaining their defence positions, in Bakhtaran and Ilam Provinces, over the past 24 hours responded to the enemy shelling and kept the enemy forces under heavy fire. The Islamic combatants halted any movement of the enemy forces and destroyed two group and individual bunkers, one outpost and a mortar-launcher unit. The Iranian forces killed or injured 17 of the Iraqi forces.

Lorestan Airspace Violated

LD131126 Tehran IRNA in English 1117 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan Pr., March 13 IRNA — Iraqi fighter planes in the continuation of their attack on non-military and civilian areas violated the airspace of Aligudarz, Lorestan Province three times Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning. Iranian air defence units chased away the intruding Iraqi planes before they were able to carry out their mission.

Meanwhile, at 02:30 a.m. local time Tuesday (23:00 GMT) Iraqi planes violated the airspace of Dow Rud, Lorestan Province, which were intercepted by the Iranian anti-aircraft units.

Iraqi Troop Morale Low

LD131142 Tehran IRNA in English 1123 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — The Iraqi regime has given order for the shooting of any soldier who surrenders to the Iranian forces at the warfronts, announced the Khatam ol-Anbiya headquarters of the joint operation headquarters of the Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Tuesday.

An Iraqi POW, Hamid Khalid Zahir, captured during the Monday night offensive of the Iranian forces in east Tigris, said that after the thrust of the Iranian forces, a group of Iraqi soldiers who wanted to surrender, were shot in the back by the Iraqi forces.

Zahir, an employee of the Baghdad University, added that the Iraqi regime was forcing the employees to go to the warfronts and those who refused were dismissed from their jobs. He said the morale of the Iraqi forces was extremely low and added that most of the Iraqi soldiers were not willing to fight against the Iranian forces. He further added that the Iraqi people were fed up with the tyrany of the Iraqi ruler.

The first group of the Iraqi POW's captured in the latest operation were transferred to Ahvaz Tuesday.

Iraqi Raids Thwarted

LD131204 Tehran IRNA in English 1131 GMT 13 Mar 85

[text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — two Iraqi jets voilated the airspace of the city of Zanjan in Zanjan Pr. at 1320 local time (0950 GMT) and the city of Sardasht in Kordestan Pr. at 1345 local time (1015 GMT) Wednesday. The intruding jets had to flee when they encountered the intense anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian batteries without being able to carry out their mission.

Clandestine Commentary Pleads for End to War

TA121612 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary: "We Want Peace Not Retaliation"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Intransigence and stubbornness by the Islamic regime's criminal rulers in prolonging the devastating war has recently cost our homeland's working and deprived people very dearly on the eve of the Nowruz festival. The blood of hundreds of innocent human beings was shed, and millions of dollars in damages were added to the billions of dollars of heavy damages inflicted previously. The shelling of Iran's towns and productive centers and units by Iraq, and the shelling of Iraq's towns and economic centers by Iran is continuing. Thus every day the number of those killed and maimed, as well as war refugees and the amount of damages and devastation, is increasing.

Progressive mankind, Iran's peaceloving people, and official international organizations have once again demanded an end to the destructive war desired by the U.S. and Great Britain by approaching Iran's Islamic regime on the one hand and the Iraqi regime on the other. The Islamic rulers, however, instead of coming to their senses and feeling responsible for so much bloodshed, destruction, and devastation — for which they are the real cause — have again spoken about the political importance of the Iran-Iraq war, about their mission to export the Islamic Revolution to our neighboring country Iraq, and in other words about the imposition of a medieval fascist-theocratic regime — similar to Iran's Islamic regime — on the Iraqi nation.

The inhabitants of the country's southern and western towns, in order to save their own and their children's lives, have left their homes and havens and are fleeing to other parts of the country on the eve of Nowruz. However, the Velayat-e Faqih, Mr Khomeyni, has called on the people to take retaliatory measures against Iraq. The grand caliph's clowns, too, adhering to their great leader, are constantly talking about the need to retaliate against the Iraqi people but do not utter a word on the need to end this devastating war.

The Iranian people say that if there should be retaliation, one should above all retaliate against you usurping, warmongering, and bloodsucking Islamic rulers, who without paying the slightest heed to the daily increasing casualties, misfortunes, and calamities stemming from this destructive war, and ignoring Iraq's repeated requests to begin negotiations on ending the war, you continue to chant the slogan of "War, war until victory", and constantly speak of the war's political importance.

So far you have sent about half a million of this country's population to their deaths for the sake of achieving this inhuman, and among other things, un-Islamic goal. The number of war invalids exceeds 1.5 million. The number of war refugees is over 3 million. As a result of the prolongation of this futile war you have inflicted billions of dollars in material damages on our homeland. Despite this, you are again talking about the need to continue the war for the sake of its political goals, and currently about the need to retaliate because of the scandalous defeat of the warmongering policy. For how long must the people pay the penalty for your warmongering and treacherous policy?

If as you say this war is for the sake of Islam, then why do you prevent the martyrdom of your own children on the path of this so-called Islamic war? You, Mr Rafsanjani, who speak day and night on the need to continue the war, and who every day raise a ludicrous pretext to justify this great crime, why do you refrain from sending your own children to the war front? Not only do you refrain, but you have sent them to Europe lest one day they be harmed by the people's wrath and anger in tyranny-stricken Iran. Our homeland's people, in response to the gentlemen who are calling on them to retaliate against Iraq, are rightly saying: We want peace, peace, peace.

Shortly we will retaliate against traitors to the goals of the revolution and the murderers of hundreds of thousands of our children who were either killed at the war front or in the medieval dungeons by the executioners of the Velayat-e Faqih's Islamic regime.

Velayati Submits Proposal for POW Exchange

LD111428 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — The Islamic Republic gave proposals Monday for the exchange of prisoners of war in Iraq and Iran, in reply to a request by the U.N. secretary general.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar containing "practical proposals" for the exchange of the POW's.

The proposals called for:

— The unilateral repatriation of all maimed and incurable POW's.
— The exchange of young POW's who were 16 years of age or younger at the time of captivity.
— The equal exchange of the ill and wounded POW's who, according to the Geneva Convention, should not necessarily be exchanged unilaterally.
— The exchange of former Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan and other Iranian officials, Yahyavi and Boushehri, for three high-ranking Iraqi prisoners.

— The exchange of all prisoners who, according to the definitions and rules of the Geneva Convention, are not considered as war captives.

— Preparing a program for regular visits between the POW's and their families.

The letter also requested the U.N. secretary general to look into the issue of those missing in action and the exchange of lists containing names of those killed and buried in the battle zone. Velayati stressed that it is necessary to take all humanitarian aspects of the issue into consideration and prevent instigations by Iraq "which are purely aimed at politicising this humanitarian issue to cast a lid on its crimes against Iranian POW's."

He said Iraq wants "to prevent the implementation of humanitarian and practical proposals."

Velayati also said that forwarding these proposals to "certain international organisations who are not presently on good terms with the two sides, would only make the issue more complex and cause a delay in the implementation of the said proposals."

Ozal Scores Turkish Media on POW's Reportage

LD100722 Tehran IRNA in English 0559 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Ankara, March 10, IRNA — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has criticised his country's press for publishing false reports on torturing of Iraqi POW's in Iran. The Turkish prime minister made the criticism before attending the cabinet meeting Friday. His statements, condemning the published items in Turkish newspapers on torturing of Iraqi captives in Iran, were broadcast in detail on the country's radio and television.

Referring to the pictures published in the highly circulated newspapers *MILLIYET* and *HURRIYET*, he said that after investigations, it was understood that the pictures were about a film made in Italy. Even law suits were filed against the film procedures in Italian, he added.

Mr. Ozal stressed that such problems would be created for the government, if those in charge ignore the accuracy of news. He then urged newspapers to pay further attention to such cases. He also reminded that the Foreign Ministry was empowered to hold gatherings with journalists every now and then to inform them of the foreign policies of the country.

Guinea-Bissau Delegation Arrives for Talks

LD121359 Tehran IRNA in English 1136 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA -- Vice-Chairman of Guinea-Bissau [title as received] Iafai Camara, heading a delegation, arrived in Tehran Tuesday morning for talks with Iranian officials. Speaking about his trip, which is the first such visit by a delegation from Guinea-Bissau in post-revolutionary period, Camara said both countries shared common views and both were members of the Islamic Conference Organization and the Nonaligned Movement.

On the establishment of relations with other countries, he said the objective was to maintain economic and political independence. He added that on international issues both countries have similar views.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, commenting on the trip of the delegation said Guinea-Bissau is one of the progressive African countries and has a long history of struggle against colonialism. The country has held a progressive stance in international and African organisations. In the light of Guinea-Bissau's foreign policy, which is in the interest of Third World countries, relations have been established between the two countries following the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, he added.

Velayati added that talks of the delegation with Iranian officials will be related to the expansion of mutual relations and cooperation in international organisations and the Nonaligned Movement.

Majlis Energy Head on Oil Revenue, Shortcomings

LD091210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] The head of the Islamic Majlis Energy Commission, in an interview with a correspondent of the Central News Unit, explained the contribution from oil income to the country's budget for the year 1364 [21 March 1985 to 20 March 1986] regarding reliance on oil income in the budget for the year 1364, he said that of course, a policy of total reliance on oil, which we inherited from the past, is wrong. But thanks to our new policies, we are trying to free ourselves from this dependence by following a correct course of action. At present, about 60 percent of the country's income comes from oil revenues.

Commenting on next year's oil production and oil revenue, while emphasizing the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil policy, to observe OPEC prices, he said that the United States and its satellites are trying to create fluctuations in oil prices. However, in the view of our people and officials, we hope to limit the contribution of oil income to the budget and then we could produce and sell oil in an interesting manner [as heard].

In connection with shipping security in the Persian Gulf for oil sales, he expressed the hope that by toppling Saddam and terminating the war problem, security will be restored.

On domestic fuel supplies, the head of the Oil Commission [as heard] of the Islamic Majlis, Seyyed Jalil Seyyedzadeh, said thanks to the efforts of our workers, production of the country's oil refineries currently exceeded even their nominal capacity and we refined about 730,000 barrels per day and delivered oil products to various provinces in the country.

Of course, this level of production does not meet the country's requirements and we import some of our needs from abroad. Since we are facing some problems in this respect, sometimes it is difficult to supply our fuel requirements and the existing shortcomings stem from the same problem. He emphasized that in view of the solutions proposed by responsible officials of the

Oil Ministry, there is hope that these shortcomings will be overcome soon.

In connection with practical solutions to prevent wasting gas extracted with oil and to better utilize this source of energy in the country, the head of the Majlis Oil Commission said that from the standpoint of gas deposits, we are in second place in the world. Therefore, by building the Khangiran gas refinery and expanding the gas network all over the country, we hope to utilize this energy in a desirable manner.

He said the following about the progress made in establishing basic industries from oil revenue with the aim of freeing the country from its reliance of oil exports: Among such industries one could name operations of the second furnace of the iron foundry, construction of the new jetty at the Shahid Beheshti port, construction of the Khangiran gas refinery and establishment of new copper refining units at the Sarcheshmeh copper complex. We do not believe it is appropriate to talk about comfort until we reach self-sufficiency.

He further emphasized that the responsible authorities of the state are striving to make sure that these targets will be met in the country's 5-year and 20-year plans, but the difficulties of the war, to which all our power and resources should be directed, prevent us from taking some important steps in this direction. However, I believe that the government and the Majlis are moving in the right direction in this respect.

About operation of the Iran-Japan petrochemical complex, he said that if this complex were operational, we could solve many of the country's industrial problems by supplying the raw material; and in this connection, some talks are being held in the Oil Commission right now and the results will be announced to the Iranian nation in the future.

Montazeri Condemns Iraqi 'Zionist Atrocities'

LD100937 Tehran IRNA in English 0924 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Ayatollah Montazeri, speaking in the holy city of Qom Saturday, condemned the latest Iraqi attacks on southern and western cities of Iran and also the recent crime of the Zionist regime in southern Lebanon. Further he said that the Muslims were faced with great problems and silence in the face of these difficulties would be an unforgiveable sin.

Referring to the recent execution in Iraq of a number of prominant theologian relatives of the late Ayatollah Mohsen Hakim, Ayatollah Montazeri stressed that ulema in Iraqi should not remain silent towards these atrocities. The people of Iraq should rise together against the Iraqi ruler and put an end to his tyranic rule, just as the Iranians did with the deposed shah, and they should take into consideration that the deposed shah was far more stronger than the Iraqi ruler.

He further deplored the silence of international organisations towards the Iraqi regime's crimes against the inhabitants of Iranian cities, a large number of whom have lost their lives in the recent Iraqi attacks and a large group have been made homeless.

Death of Ayatollah Khademi in Esfahan Noted

LD110938 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Esfahan, Esfahan Province, March 11, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn Khademi, head of the Esfahan Theological Center, died early this morning at the age of 86, following a long period of illness.

The late Ayatollah Khademi following completion of his studies at Esfahan theological center went to the holy city of Najaf for further studies. After returning to Esfahan he campaigned against the toppled regime of Shah. The governor general of Esfahan has declared a three-day mourning throughout the province and Tuesday as the public holiday there. The society of militant ulema of Tehran in a statement issued here today expressed its condolences over the death of the late ayatollah.

Iraq Helps Kuwait Tighten Border Security

GF101910 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] In the wake of increasing defection of Iraqi military officials from the fronts of the war which Saddam's regime imposed on the Islamic Revolution and after fleeing to countries adjacent to Iraq, the Kuwaiti Government, in coordination with Saddam's regime, has adopted new measures aimed at preventing the entry of Iraqis who oppose the war into Kuwait. The Kuwaiti press quoted 'Ali al-Sabah, commander of the Kuwaiti Border Guard, as saying that the Kuwaiti Border Guard will be supplied with new equipment including radars and special binoculars for night guard with the aim of imposing full control on the borders and preventing the infiltration of individuals into Kuwaiti territory at night. The commander of the Kuwaiti Border Guard added that Kuwaiti territory has been divided into three zones with three separate commands in order to guarantee a full control over the Kuwaiti borders.

Kuwaiti Government Deports More Iranian Workers

GF111640 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] The Kuwaiti Government has expelled another 85 Iranian workers. According to the Central News Unit, this group has arrived by motorboat through the Persian Gulf during the past few days. They arrived at Bandar-e Rig, Bandar-e Deylam, and Hendijan and were then settled in a special refugee camp in Bushehr. It must be said that some of these people were imprisoned in Kuwaiti jails for 5 days to 5 months before their deportation, and their belongings confiscated by Kuwaiti police.

Mujahidin Attack Soviet-DRA Forces in Qandahar

LD101501 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] An armored column of the joint USSR and DRA Government troops came under attack by Muslim Afghan revolutionaries in (Punjab) bridge region of Qandahar as a result of which, four tanks and fuel carriers of the joint forces were

completely destroyed and their passengers were killed. The Central News Unit reports that according to reports, in other operations carried out by Muslim Afghan revolutionaries against the Soviet Army and the Government troops of Afghanistan, 30 of these forces were killed. These reports indicate that the occupying forces bombed villages surrounding the city of Qandahar in retaliation.

Afghan Rebels Kill 65 USSR-Government Troops

LD091951 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Muslim Afghan revolutionaries in two severe attacks against the joint USSR-government forces killed at least 65 of them and wounded 10. The Central News Unit reports that in these attacks, which took place in the two governorates of Keshem in Badakhshan and Khowst in Paktia Province, an armored personnel carrier was destroyed, 10 Soviet soldiers were captured by the Muslim revolutionaries, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was seized.

The same report adds that the Soviet forces bombed (Shakhdan) region in Badakhshan Province in retaliation using several fighter planes, which resulted in eight Muslims of the region being martyred and three wounded.